

Filed for intro on 05/11/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0214
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge Gale Robinson,
of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of our most trusted and valued colleague, Edward Gale Robinson, of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a former General Sessions Court Judge for Davidson County, Judge Robinson is remembered fondly by the city's legal community as a capable and colorful jurist who possessed the common touch; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant of the first order, Judge Robinson was descended from a long line of prominent public servants: his father, Garner Robinson, who died in 1989, served as magistrate, county coroner, sheriff, trustee and state representative during his prominent career; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robinson is survived by his loving wife, Lana Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robinson's sister, Muriel Robinson, presently serves as a Davidson County Circuit Court Judge, his sister Maude Robinson Hopkins works at Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home, his uncle is our exemplary colleague, Representative Robb Robinson; and his cousin, James Roberson, was a two-term member of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, today, his son, Gale B. Robinson, proudly follows in his father's footsteps as he astutely serves as a Davidson County General Sessions Court Judge, and he is survived by three other loving children of whom he was very proud: Laura Robinson Clary, Edward Garner Robinson, and U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Norman W. Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robinson was a great communicator who evinced great compassion and extraordinary common sense when dealing with the disputes that came before his court; and

WHEREAS, he also possessed the unique ability to seize the heart of a legal issue quickly from the bench, and would often make novel rulings to match novel cases; and

WHEREAS, an extremely astute and dedicated jurist, Judge Robinson also lobbied for courtroom reform, and he was widely renowned for his candor and his dominant, yet humorous, courtroom demeanor; and

WHEREAS, his heroes, Andrew Jackson and Harry Truman, were men much like himself, leaders who demonstrated courage and vision in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robinson was a strong, yet compassionate man, who once paid the burial expenses for a young boy whose family was in straitened circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Gale Robinson was born in Old Hickory in 1932, and resided in Davidson County for his entire life; and

WHEREAS, he was funeral director and one of the owners of Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home, which his father acquired in 1929; and

WHEREAS, he proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Naval Reserves for five years, both on active and reserve duty; and

WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Duncan Preparatory College and pursued pre-law studies at Peabody College; he received his law degree from Cumberland University School of Law in 1957; and

WHEREAS, he began his illustrious and distinguished career in the practice of law with legendary political and legal figure, Jack Norman, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-five, Gale Robinson was elected to serve in the House of Representatives of this Body, thus becoming the state's youngest legislator; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and industry as a member of the General Assembly for one term before leaving to become a Davidson County Assistant District Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he was appointed by Governor Buford Ellington to a vacant General Sessions Court Judge position; he would fulfill the responsibilities of this important post with the utmost in dedication and integrity for nearly twenty years; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, he resigned his judgeship in order to run for Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County; he had also previously been a candidate for District Attorney and later the Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who realized that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, Gale Robinson participated in numerous civic, charitable and community organizations, but his first allegiance was to the Al Menah Shrine Temple; and

WHEREAS, he was extremely active in the Al Menah Shrine Temple, having served admirably twice as potentate; he had recently been re-elected as treasurer; and

WHEREAS, he was also a member of the Masonic Lodge and Shrine Cabrini and was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, York Rite Mason and Emeritus Representative to the Imperial Shrine of North America; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gale Robinson was a brilliant jurist whose long and distinguished career on the bench serves as an exemplary model for present and future judges to emulate; his passing leaves behind a void that will not be easily filled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Judge Gale Robinson, reflecting fondly upon his sterling legacy as an adept member of the judiciary and an outstanding public servant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our condolences to Judge Robinson's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Robinson family with this final clause omitted from such copy.